

Terri-A
White/R3/USEPA/US
02/06/2012 05:00 PM

To Jonathan Barnes
cc
bcc
Subject Re: questions re Dimock for Consumer News story

Hi Jonathan,

This statement by EPA answers several of your questions. Actual water deliveries started on Jan. 20. I'm also including a link to EPA's press release, issued on Jan. 19. As for your question #7) please contact PA DEP; for Q#8) I'll have to get back to you since I'm unfamiliar with the issue of bromides in Pittsburgh's water. Can you clarify the issue for me so that I'm able to get the information you're looking for. Thanks.
-- Terri

EPA Jan. 19 press release on Dimock
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/90829d899627a1d98525735900400c2b/8eb78248ce13d9dc8525798a0070f991!OpenDocument>

EPA Response to Cabot Statement
of 1-31-12

Since EPA announced on January 19 our plan to sample wells in Dimock, Pennsylvania, and provide alternate water supplies to four homes, we have been clear and forthright about the basis of our actions and acknowledged that uncertainties about the data made available to the Agency existed. We acknowledged that the data available to us was incomplete and of uncertain quality, and based on this, determined the need to conduct sampling of wells. Nevertheless, there were data items that presented sufficient health concerns, leading us to offer alternate water to a handful of the residents. EPA's standard practice when conducting investigations ensures the protection of public health, as our analysis considers the highest levels to which the public may be exposed. Additional, validated data is needed to fill information gaps and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action.

Cabot has criticized EPA for providing alternate water supplies to four homes in Dimock. We took this precautionary and limited step as an interim measure to be protective of human health while monitoring is underway. Cabot has also characterized the presence of certain chemicals, such as arsenic, manganese, and sodium as naturally occurring. This is misleading, since although these chemicals are naturally occurring in Susquehanna County, the levels of arsenic, manganese and sodium found in the Dimock area are not consistent with background concentrations typically found in the zones from which Dimock home owners draw water for their private wells. Nevertheless, EPA did not act on sodium as a basis for providing alternate water. However, the arsenic and manganese levels, when reviewed by an EPA toxicologist, were at levels high enough to present a health concern, supporting the need for alternate water. This latest explanation by Cabot about their data further underscores the need for EPA to have reliable validated information.

Beginning on January 10, Cabot began submitting data in response to the Agency's request of January 6. EPA is reviewing that data which consists of approximately 10,000 pages of records pertaining to the site. Until that point, Cabot had not provided EPA any data. Furthermore, Cabot has advised us that even more data, estimated at 100,000 additional pages, is still to be provided. We plan to carefully consider it, along with the results of our own sampling, in determining next steps. Meanwhile, we will work with Cabot to get any additional information that will help us interpret the data they have given us.

As stated in EPA's January 19 Action Memorandum, which formally initiated our response in Dimock, "EPA will continue to evaluate the updated data, and may revise its actions to provide water to any of the additional homes, or

to cease provision of water, as warranted by the data.” We are, therefore, focused on obtaining results in an expeditious manner and acting on them.

Jonathan Barnes

Terri, Thanks for the call. I tried to call you bac...

02/06/2012 02:30:37 PM

From: Jonathan Barnes <pittsburghreporter@yahoo.com>
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/06/2012 02:30 PM
Subject: questions re Dimock for Consumer News story

Terri,

Thanks for the call. I tried to call you back but didn't get you immediately so I am sending this email.

As I said, I am writing a story on fracking for Consumer News, a new online news site.

Following are my questions:

- 1) When did EPA start delivering water to Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy and others in Dimock, PA?
- 2) Why is the EPA doing this?
- 3) How many folks up there are getting the water and how often?
- 4) How long will they get the water from EPA?
- 5) Why is your agency providing it, shouldn't the state DEP take care of it?
- 6) Can EPA help fix these people's water problems?
- 7) Did Cabot drill incorrectly or do something wrong to lead to this problem?
- 8) Can you comment on the levels of bromides in Pittsburgh's water?

Thanks!

Jonathan

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